

Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2024, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86307639419?pwd=az57gtox7fV69hPaRxlR6E3KlCytbJ.1>

Meeting ID: 863 0763 9419

Passcode: 409066

Meeting Objectives:

- Welcome and introduce new members
- Review and discuss regional listening session preliminary findings and ChiByDesign themes
- Identify themes that resonate and are missing, and discuss short-term ideas
- Discuss next steps for workgroup

Agenda:

Welcome, agenda & connector	10 minutes
Preliminary findings and themes	15 minutes
Themes by participant role	25 minutes
Public comment	5 minutes
Next steps	5 minutes

Padlet (for use during meeting)

For workgroup members-

<https://padlet.com/erin674/ChildrenwithSpecialNeeds>

For members of the public-

<https://padlet.com/erin674/ChildrenwithSpecialNeedsPublicComment>

Participants

Africa Anderson

Lakeesha James

Sanna Jesse

Talibah Moore

Yesenia Perez

Kim Nelson

Beatrice Nichols

Benny Delgado

Kristy Doan

Theenshina Mayfield

Johnna Darragh-Ernst

Janice Moenster

Summary

Welcome

In the meeting, Erin welcomed participants and outlined the agenda, which included reviewing the agenda, discussing preliminary findings from the ChiByDesign report and regional listening sessions, and discussing themes by role type. She also mentioned the importance of community agreements and encouraged participants to actively participate in the meeting. The meeting was attended by various stakeholders, including parents, educators, providers, school district representatives, state staff advocates, higher education representatives, and legislators.

Preliminary Findings & Themes

Erin led a discussion on the outcomes of the regional listening sessions and the ChiByDesign report. She highlighted three main themes: accessible and affordable services, communication and coordination for cohesive support, and consistent and culturally responsive relationships. Erin also discussed the barriers to accessing services, such as information navigation, accessibility, and communication. She encouraged workgroup members to share their experiences and thoughts on these

issues, either through the Padlet, in the chat, or by coming off mute. The discussion aimed to gather feedback and potential solutions to address the identified issues.

Themes by Participant Role - Parents

One parent shared her personal experience of navigating the early intervention system for her children with disabilities, highlighting the challenges faced by parents without a special education or disability background. She noted the lack of familiarity among physicians and the difficulty in accessing services, including early intervention providers and child care facilities equipped to handle children with disabilities. Another workgroup member echoed the exhaustion of accessing services and navigating legal rights. Both agreed on the need for better resources and support for parents navigating the system. Parents shared their experiences of starting a new school year, where teachers often hadn't read the IEP or IFSP before school began.

Erin then moved on to discuss communication and coordination, asking for feedback on barriers experienced by parents. One parent shared her experience of a communication gap between her child's child care center and herself, which led to delays in receiving necessary evaluations and screenings. She emphasized the importance of teachers observing and evaluating children's development, especially in early childhood education. Two parents also discussed the challenges of enrolling children in schools, the lack of certain schools in their community, and the issue of transportation for children with diverse needs.

The participants shared their experiences and suggestions for improving these areas, particularly in the context of child care and healthcare services. One parent suggested the idea of having representatives from the Department at community events to provide information and support. Another parent emphasized the importance of accessible requirements for schools and better communication between parents and providers. The team also discussed the value of consistent and robust communication, as well as the need for services in the preferred language of families. The conversation ended with the suggestion of building on these themes to improve the overall experience for families.

Members shared their personal experiences, expressing both frustration and gratitude towards the system. They highlighted the importance of trust in the system

and the need for effective communication and collaboration between parents, teachers, and other stakeholders. Members also emphasized the need for a recentring of conversations around the child's needs, rather than individual perspectives. The conversation ended with an invitation for other parents to share their experiences.

Themes by Participant Role – Providers, Educators, School District & Intermediary Staff

Erin also presented the provider experience, highlighting the challenges faced by providers, educators, and school district personnel, particularly in rural areas and with children with disabilities. She then discussed three themes: collaboration with different services, the importance of relationships, and the need for professional development and career growth. Erin also foreshadowed there would be future discussions on equitable services, quality definitions, and workforce diversity.

- Workgroup members to provide feedback on themes via Padlet or email.
- Erin to send out Doodle poll for 2025 meeting dates.
- Workgroup to discuss potential name change for the group.